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McCord Thinks Nixon

Authorized Watergate

WASHINGTON, May 23 (AP)—A convicted Watergate conspirator, James W. McCord Jr., says in a book released today that he believes President Nixon set in motion both the Watergate break-in and the subsequent cover-up. "I believe that the President knew of the cover-up long before March 21, 1973," Mr. McCord says in the book, "A Piece of Tape—The Watergate story: Fact and Fiction." Mr. Nixon has said he first learned of the cover-up from the then White House legal counsel, John W. Dean 3d, on March 21, 1973.

"I believe he set it [the cover-up] in motion in June 1972," Mr. McCord says, "just as I believe he had set the original operations in motion in the spring of 1972 by approving it."